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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

Top Secret

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30 August 1967

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Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A010200260001-9

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Egypt: Nasir has broken up a planned coup, but his action could result in further trouble for his regime.

On the night of 25 August, [redacted] the former chief of the armed forces, Abdul Hakim Amir, was arrested for organizing a coup against Nasir. The coup was to have taken place while Nasir was attending the current Arab summit conference in Khartoum. Some 150 of Amir's high-ranking military collaborators were also arrested. The head of Egypt's General Intelligence organization, Salah Nasir, was implicated in the coup planning and has resigned.

Nasir may feel temporarily secure after having removed the immediate threat, but Amir's arrest may spark further opposition from among the military. The army, however, would probably be unable for some time to organize any such opposition effectively, since it is now demoralized and its leadership decimated. [redacted]

[redacted]

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South Arabian Federation: The British once again are face to face with the problem of coming up with some sort of interim arrangements before they pull out.

The federal government has disintegrated and the army has declined to step into the breach. The army is reportedly posing stiff conditions which it says must be met before it will agree to take over. These include: lifting the state of emergency, releasing political detainees, dissolving the present government, and holding new elections.

The nationalist tone of the demands suggests that the army leaders and the leaders of the National Liberation Front (NLF) have made a deal. Army leaders are known to sympathize with the NLF, but it is not clear whether any deal would extend much beyond the immediate situation.

Before this latest turn of events, British High Commissioner Trevelyan believed there was still some hope that the federal leaders, the NLF, and the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (FLOSY) would get together. He was sticking to the position that the British would talk only with representatives of all groups and would not capitulate to the NLF or FLOSY.

The British are nevertheless anxious to wash their hands of the situation and speed up the withdrawal of their forces. They are going ahead with plans to open an embassy and establish relations with the postindependence government, whatever its complexion. Trevelyan believes that financial aid will be London's one strong card in future dealings with the South Arabians. [REDACTED]

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Cambodia: Cambodia's leftists still pose significant problems for Prince Sihanouk despite his efforts to curtail their activities.

[redacted] the political situation in Cambodia has deteriorated in recent months and may be reaching "critical" proportions. The [redacted] left has increased its propaganda activities. Among these were demonstrations in Phnom Penh and other areas for the "return" of two leading leftists who disappeared during the government's antileftist campaign last April.

The [redacted] assessment may be somewhat overdrawn. Still, concern has been growing within Sihanouk's entourage over the increased boldness of the Cambodian left. [redacted]

[redacted] Sihanouk himself is worried over his failure to check leftist activities. [redacted]

[redacted] Sihanouk has so far moved cautiously against the leftist threat. [redacted] the leftists are controlled by Communist China, and wishes to keep relations with Peking from deteriorating further.

The Cambodian foreign minister recently visited Communist China, where he reportedly asked that the Chinese use their good offices to urge restraint on the Cambodian left. Sihanouk has, however, also made it clear that he is prepared to take more forceful steps when they are necessary. His army moved quickly and harshly to suppress the leftist-supported disturbances in western Cambodia early this year. [redacted]

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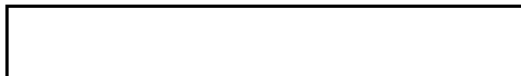
NOTE

Congo (Kinshasa): President Mobutu has backed down at least for the moment from the position he took last week. He then pictured a Congolese military victory as the only acceptable solution to the mercenary problem. Mobutu now says he would be willing to negotiate with the rest of the mercenaries if their leader, Schramme, were to "disappear." In any case, he added, he intends to take no further action against the mercenaries until after the OAU summit meeting, scheduled to be held from 11-14 September in Kinshasa.



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